

**Minutes**  
**The Billingham Partnership Board**  
**5 October 2009, 6pm at Stockton Riverside Bede College, Billingham**

**Chair:**

**Geoff Harrison** (Low Grange Community Hall)

**Kevin Pitt** (Manager)

**Members:**

Kevin Bowler (**North Billingham Residents Association**), Joe Maloney (**Billingham International Folklore Festival**), Ken Ellis (**Churches Together in Billingham**), Bert Smailes (**Safer Billingham Partnership**), Hilary Aggio (**Stockton Borough Council**), Liz Smith (**Billingham Business Association**), Gil Smith (**Billingham Business Association**), Roger Black (**Federation of Small Businesses**), Barry Woodhouse (**Stockton Borough Council**), David Campbell (**Pentland Primary School**), Ray McCall (**Clarences Residents Association**), Fred Gook (**Neighbourhood Watch**), Michele Smith (**New Life Family Centre**), Chris Humpleby (**Over 50's Assembly**), Ged McGuire (**South Billingham Residents Association**), Mike Smith (**Stockton Borough Council**)

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

**Advisors:**

**Zoe Rutter, Louise McDonald, Andy Whinnerah** (Stockton Borough Council)

**Observers**

**Councillor Mike Womphrey** (Stockton Borough Council)

**Apologies**

**Members:**

**Cath Coldbeck** (Stockton Trade & District Union), **Barry Woodhouse** (Stockton Borough Council),

**Advisors**

**Claire Walsh** (Stockton Borough Council), **Jean Edmonds** (Stockton Borough Council)

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<p><b>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Members were introduced and welcomed to the Billingham Partnership Board. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Chair opened the meeting by reading a statement with regards to his position on the Board due to his resignation from Low Grange Residents Association. Members agreed to request the CEN to verify Geoff's position on the Billingham Partnership. Members unanimously support Geoff's position and request the CEN to continue their support for Geoff on the Board.</p>		No
<p><b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September 2009 were agreed as a true record.</p>		No
<p><b>3. Myplace – Claire Walsh</b></p> <p>This item will now be presented at a future meeting of the Billingham Partnership Board.</p>		No
<p><b>4. Fire Brigade – Ian Harrington</b></p> <p>Ian Harrington, District Commander of Cleveland Fire, gave a brief presentation to the Board on the potential loss of 1 fire engine in Billingham. In 2008 Cleveland Fire carried out a review of it's services and part of that was how best to utilise the use of the engines. After extensive research and analysis by Cleveland Fire it was revealed that if Billingham Fire Station does lose one engine Ian stressed that there will be no reduction in service. The Board were informed that if a house fire is to start in Billingham, 1 engine will be sent in 5 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> engine will be sent in 8 minutes and the 3<sup>rd</sup> engine, if necessary, will be sent in 10 minutes. Ian spoke to the Board at length about the major chemical works on Seal Sands and how well equipped industry is to deal with any major incidents. If an incident was to break out at Seal Sands the engines that would attend the scene would most likely be sent from Hartlepool</p>		It was agreed that a collective response from the Partnership would be sent by Kevin Pitt.

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<p>Station due to the distance. The group were informed that Billingham Fire Station has the lowest take up in the Cleveland area.            Ian informed the Board that the consultation regarding the engine loss is still current and urged people to visit the website or write to the Chief Fire Officer with any concerns.</p> <p><b>Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>            No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b>            No</p> <p><b>Contact:</b>            Ian Harrington, Cleveland Fire  <a href="mailto:iharrington@clevelandfire.gov.uk">iharrington@clevelandfire.gov.uk</a></p>		
<p><b>5. Hospital Site, Wynyard</b></p> <p>This item was brought to the Partnership as concerns were raised by a Ward Member over the volume of traffic that could potentially impact on the Billingham area.            The planning authority is Hartlepool Borough Council but Stockton are a consultee as a neighbouring authority. The Board have several concerns over the traffic and noise that extra traffic will bring to the area. The Board agreed that they would like to see a robust bus service to the new hospital site, resurfacing of the A19 and reconfiguration of the A19/A689 junction. These concerns will be sent to Stockton Borough Council to forward onto Hartlepool Borough Council.</p> <p><b>Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>            No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b>            No</p>		<p>The Boards concerns will be sent to Hartlepool Borough Council.</p>

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<p><b>6. Matters Arising</b>  <b>a. Town Centre Development</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that three new retailers have recently been announced as new tenants for the Town Centre, these being: Ethel Austin, Au Naturale and Grainger Games, with other retail negotiations also being pursued. It was noted that there is now less than 7% of the total units vacant which demonstrates that Billingham is very much seen as an economically viable retail centre.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that Stockland are in the process of planning their masterplan and urban realm consultation which will be held at the beginning of November (2/3/4 November) and this will be advertised in the near future. The results of the consultation will then be reviewed and where appropriate / feasible fed into the draft masterplan, before it's final submission to the Council expected by the end of the winter.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>  No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b>  No</p> <p><b>b. Billingham House</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that Officers from Regeneration are still working with all parties to try to bring about a solution for the site.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that preparations are underway for the trial at Teesside Magistrates Courts on 12<sup>th</sup> October for the prosecution case against Bizzy B Management Ltd (owners of Billingham House) for failing to comply with the legal notice requiring them to demolish the building by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. Bizzy B's legal representatives have entered a plea of 'not guilty' at the previous hearing at Teesside Magistrates Courts on 11<sup>th</sup> August, so the trial will provide the opportunity for Bizzy B to argue their case against the prosecution proceedings.</p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>

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<p><b>Does it need Council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>c. Forum</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that contractor Morgan Ashurst continue to strip out the building for its refit. Various sub contractors are working on the heating and electrics as well as the structural works in preparation for their renewal.</p> <p>Information about the refurbishment including contact details have been placed within the foyer of the old Billingham Art Gallery (window). As the contract progresses, the display will be updated with text and pictures to allow residents and users to see the progress over the 18 month refurbishment.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that Morgan Ashurst is currently producing a website to further provide information regarding the refurbishment. It is anticipated that the website will feature a webcam (ice arena), construction diary (with photos), latest news page etc.</p> <p>LM informed the Board that the bid for further Sport England SWIM bid has been successful and the Council has been awarded a further £340k. SBC have also been successful in securing the loan from the Carbon Trust Loan (Salix Financing) to improve energy efficiencies for the refurbished building.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p>		No

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<p><b>d. John Whitehead Park</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that Probation Services have installed 95% of the play area fence, with gates and access points to be fabricated and installed. Artist Adrian Wood will install the art features that he designed with local school children once the gates are installed.            Play providers have submitted their proposals for the development of additional facilities. Artist Lee Brewster, who did some earlier consultation work with children and young people, has returned to the schools to discuss what types of equipment they would most like to have and the location of the equipment. A report is being prepared by Lee for feedback and comment.            A question was raised with regards to damage to the external hedging in the park. KP to raise this issue with the Safer Billingham Partnership and feedback to the Partnership.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>            No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b>            No</p> <p><b>e. Integrated Health &amp; Social Care Facility</b></p> <p>LM informed the Board that the Council continue to finalise details of the scheme objectives, scope and deliverables.            This is a lengthy piece of work which will lead to the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department of Health in March 2010 with the hope of formally securing the £35m PFI credits, for which we presently have an allocation in principle.</p> <p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>            No</p>	No	No

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<p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Louise McDonald, Stockton Council (01642) 528942 <a href="mailto:louise.mcdonald@stockton.gov.uk">louise.mcdonald@stockton.gov.uk</a></p>		
<p><b>7. Billingham Environmental Link Project (BELP) – Kevin Pitt</b></p> <p>KP gave a presentation to the Board on the current status of the BELP. A meeting has been held with Stockton Riverside College which was very positive in relation to the students helping develop the BELP i.e. bricklayers, joinery etc.</p> <p>KP informed the Board that he gave a presentation to the Council’s Urban Environmental Task Group regarding the BELP which was very well received and will now be taken to the Council’s Cabinet.</p> <p>KP &amp; Dave Munt have been in contact with Business Link and Crutes solicitors with regards to turning the BELP into a social enterprise. Business Link can contribute up to £15k towards the set up of the social enterprise subject to match funding. KP asked the Board if they would agree to continue their support for the BELP and if they would agree to transfer of £6k from the old City Challenge funds to the BELP to help establish the social enterprise with regards to match funding.</p> <p>KP also talked about the setting up of a legacy fund for Billingham, RB is taking the lead on this. It could take 10-15 years to establish. The Board agreed that any left over funds from the Billingham Partnership (08/10 budget) will be put into the legacy fund.</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Dave Munt, BELP (01642) 360150 <a href="mailto:dlmunt@hotmail.com">dlmunt@hotmail.com</a></p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Board agreed to these requests.</p>

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<p><b>8. Thematic Groups Update</b></p> <p>Nothing to raise.</p>		No
<p><b>9. Information Updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Community Sector</b></p> <p>RB informed the Board that the Carnival &amp; Garden Show was a huge success and he passed his sincere thanks to everybody who was involved and hope the success continues. As part of the Elderly &amp; Disability Review that TBP are carrying out, a questionnaire was designed to distribute at the Carnival to capture some vital information. Anybody who completed a questionnaire would automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win £50 worth of Tesco vouchers. Maureen Smailes was drawn as the winner by the Chair. Further questionnaires will be distributed to the Faith Network, Billingham Business Association and the Community Empowerment Network.</p> <p>KP informed the Board that Roger Black has been nominated for a Community Champion award.</p> <p>KP informed the Board that the Billingham Angling Club have won the Northumbria in Bloom gold award for the community project at Charlton's Pond.</p> <p>A draft copy of the Third Sector Strategy was circulated ahead of the meeting for comments. If anybody has any comments they would like submitting please can they submit them to either the Manager or ZR before 16<sup>th</sup> October. KP declared an interest at this point as a Director of Catalyst.</p> <p>GH informed the Board that Newtown Community Resource Centre are applying for funding to reopen Stockton on Line at Low Grange Community Hall.</p>		<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>A letter of congratulations will be sent to the Billingham Angling Club.</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>

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<p><b>b. Voluntary Sector</b></p> <p>JM informed the Board that the Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF) is looking at becoming a Centre of Excellence for English and International Festivals and asked the Board if they would support him in his bid for funding and any future plans.</p> <p><b>c. Business Sector</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>d. Public Sector</b></p> <p>DC thanked TBP, Billingham Town Council and the Billingham Carnival for the funds they contributed for the trip to Albert Hall for the pupils of Pentland Primary School. The trip was very enjoyable for all the pupils and a DVD will be produced of their work.</p>		<p>The Board agreed to support the BIFF</p>
<p><b>10. External Funding Opportunities</b></p> <p>No external funding opportunities to report.</p>		<p>No</p>
<p><b>11. Chairs Report</b></p> <p>Chair informed the Board that he attended the following meetings over the past month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Transport Strategy pre agenda 24.9.09</li> <li>• Billingham Network 30.9.09</li> </ul> <p>Chair asked if anybody had any questions for him, no questions were raised.</p>		<p>No</p>
<p><b>12. Managers Report</b></p> <p>KP informed the Board that he will be establishing a cycle route / lane sub group as a result of discussions at the September meeting of TBP. If anybody would like to become involved in this sub group please speak to the Manager.</p>		<p>No</p>

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<b>13. Any Other Business</b>  Nothing to report.		No
<b>14. Date of Next Meeting</b>  <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, 5.45pm at New Life Family Centre, Low Grange Avenue, Billingham.</b>		No